

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, This year marks the 25th anniversary of the National Menorah which was first lit in 1979 with President Jimmy Carter and subsequently given its name by President Ronald Reagan; and,

Whereas, Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, is among the most widely celebrated of the Jewish holidays with family gatherings around the Menorah, children's songs, sizzling potato latkes and games of "dreidel"; and,

Whereas, The central tenet of Chanukah is to publicize and celebrate the miracle which happened over 2,200 years ago as the Jewish people returned to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, and found only one cruse of oil – a day's supply – which lasted for 8 days. Families place their Menorah in a doorway or a window to share their celebration of this theme; and,

Whereas, The message of Chanukah resonates quite powerfully with the fundamental principles of American life, as this nation was founded on the principles of hope and religious freedom; and,

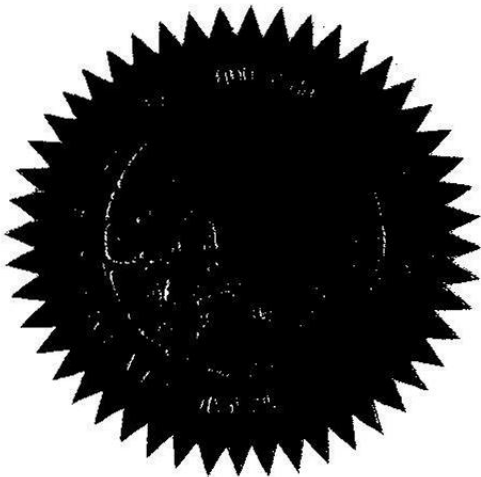
Whereas, The annual lighting of the National Menorah, the world's largest, is the most visible celebration of this festival anywhere in the world and is attended by senior administrative officials, members of congress, and the diplomatic corps:


Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim December 7, 2004, as

NATIONAL MENORAH DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of November in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.




M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State